

WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Fisher on Tuesday, February 23 2010, at 6:02 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG Chairman Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL Commissioners Present: Hamade, Fisher, Nguyen, Robbins and Cruz.

Commissioners Absent: None.

STAFF PRESENT Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Sergeant Nye, Westminster Police Department; Sonya Radziuk, Parking Control Supervisor; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of November 24, 2009 were approved (3-0), with Chairman Hamade and Commissioner Robbins abstaining.

Chairman Hamade moved that Item B be the first Item considered at this evening's meeting to allow more residents to arrive for Item A.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 03-101, Request to Rescind Parking Restrictions at 9001 Obsidian Drive

T.C. 03-101
9001 Obsidian Drive Mr. Ozaeta introduced the request to rescind parking restrictions at 9001 Obsidian Drive. Mr. Ozaeta directed everyone's attention to Exhibit A which showed the location of the fire hydrant at the subject location. Mr. Ozaeta explained that this was an enforcement issue rather than a traffic engineering issue due to the automatic 15 feet parking restrictions per California Vehicle Code. A parking restriction sign is currently posted at the subject location. Rescinding the subject parking restrictions would free up 14 feet of legal parking and relieve the community's lack of

parking. Sonya Radziuk brought forth the request to rescind parking restrictions on behalf of Eusebio Meza, 9001 Obsidian Drive.

Mr. Meza asked staff to express to the Commissioners his presence at the meeting and for the parking restrictions to be rescinded in front of his home.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to rescind 14 feet of parking restrictions on north side of Obsidian Drive, east of Magnolia Street. Mr. Ozaeta added that he had witnessed vehicles maneuvering wide turns as they enter and exit the subject location; therefore, an additional recommendation, he suggested that centerline striping be installed to guide vehicles regardless of the Commission's decision to rescind the restrictions.

Commissioner Cruz stated striping could be done administratively.

Vice Chairman Fisher stated other similar streets in the vicinity did not have parking restrictions posted for the fire hydrant and supports rescinding the subject parking restrictions. From her understanding the resident's concern was with the parked work truck on Lava Way.

Ms. Radziuk defined a commercial vehicle as transporting goods, advertising, or for hire. The police department could not enforce the municipal code on a personal truck with no markings.

Commissioner Robbins stated that two residents had called him about a large stake bed truck and appreciated the clarification. He moved to approve rescinding the subject parking restrictions and add centerline striping from Magnolia Street to Lava Way.

Chairman Hamade's concern was the encroachment of the driveway being problematic if the parking restrictions are rescinded.

Ms. Radziuk explained that the homeowner is aware of the restrictions and has not had any concerns raised by other residents.

MOTION

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve staff's recommendation to rescind the Parking Restrictions at

9001 Obsidian and add Centerline Striping from Magnolia Street to Lava Way; seconded by Vice Chairman Fisher.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that Ms. Radzuik would notify the resident of the motion and formal approval for the sign to be removed would be needed by City Council.

**T.C. 76-161
Goldenwest Street
at Humboldt Street**

The second item for discussion was T.C. 76-161, Request to Install "Keep Clear" Pavement Markings on the west side of Goldenwest Street at Humboldt Street.

Mr. Ozaeta received a verbal request from Mr. Dave Davis, 6632 Humboldt Avenue, for "Keep Clear" markings. Mr. Ozaeta referenced Exhibit A to focus on the requested pavement markings at the subject location. The subject request was for the benefit of vehicles traveling north and making a left into Humboldt or vehicles on Humboldt making a left to go north onto Goldenwest. Studies have shown that "Keep Clear" pavement marking give drivers a false sense of security. Mr. Ozaeta briefed the Commission on the five criteria needed to be met for the installation of markings:

1. Only benefit left hand vehicle maneuvers.
2. On a City Arterial.
3. An excess of 30 left turn maneuvers during peak hours.
 - Staff's investigation found 26 vehicles to be the maximum at any peak time. (criteria not met)
4. A 120 second delay to proceed through an intersection would be significant.
5. Three broadside accidents within a 3-year period.
 - Staff found 1 accident since 2005. (criteria not met)

Mr. Ozaeta recommended an alternate route when Goldenwest Street is congested, traveling down Siskiyou Street onto Westpark Place to access the traffic signal. Mr. Ozaeta referred to Exhibit B to illustrate the back up of traffic along Goldenwest Street at Humboldt Avenue.

**STAFF'S
RECOMMENDATION**

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request for "Keep Clear" pavement markings based on the field study performed as there was not sufficient traffic or delay to justify the markings at this location.

Dave Davis, 6632 Humboldt Avenue, spoke in favor of parking restrictions. Mr. Davis explained that vehicles block the intersection, have bad attitudes, and the north and southbound traffic on Goldenwest Street make it difficult not only to exit but to enter Humboldt. He would like the "Keep Clear" markings to be placed and utilized or a sign posted to not block the intersection.

Hoa, a resident of one year, spoke in favor of parking restrictions. She explained that it is very dangerous and time consuming to make left hand turns at the intersection of Humboldt and Goldenwest. She and her family use the signal at Jack in the Box to enter their neighborhood and avoid the Humboldt intersection at all costs unless she is traveling to work at midnight.

Norma De Anda, 13561 Tahoe Street, spoke in favor of parking restrictions. Ms. De Anda utilizes the Humboldt intersection six times a day transporting her children to and from high school. Ms. De Anda stated that people are rude, do not let them go by and has had to wait five minutes at times. The alternate routes are not convenient as her residence is the first street from Humboldt.

MOTION

Commissioner Nguyen questioned other alternatives to the "Keep Clear" pavement markings.

Sergeant Nye explained that if roadways are not signalized or marked to not block an intersection, vehicles would not be in violation and citations could not be issued. Sgt. Nye had observed the area at various times, including peak hours, and did not find any significant amount of traffic coming in or out of the subject area. In addition, vehicles did not have to wait more than twenty seconds. Sgt. Nye's concern was the middle pocket at the two-way left turn lane on southbound Goldenwest Street. This would give drivers a false sense of security, the law allows drivers up to 200 feet to enter the double left lane from the opposite direction, to prepare for a left hand turn. Consequently, a driver from Humboldt making a right turn could follow through the "Keep Clear" markings and enter the median causing a collision.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified that the pavement markings would extend through the two-way left lanes.

Chairman Hamade questioned alternative options.

Sergeant Nye stated that they could leave it the way it is and for vehicles to continue being cautious or if they are still uncomfortable, the safest exit would be Westpark Place or Siskiyou Street.

Commissioner Robbins explained his family and friends recommended for him to exit Westpark Place or Trask. Commissioner Robbins explained that recently when he was preparing for a left turn from Goldenwest Street onto Humboldt, two cars were waiting in the pocket and he was almost rear-ended. He is not in favor of pavement markings.

Vice Chairman Fisher stated that the striping is a bit open in the area.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that it is common to have a 50 foot solid white stripe to condition the driver that there is an opening ahead. Some cities,, including Fountain Valley, do not install "Keep Clear" markings for the reason that it adds to a driver's false sense of security. He further added that markings that were recently approved at Homer Street, were previously removed and ready to be replaced; however, staff found there to be the same number of accidents during both periods. Staff will monitor the area over the next few years for collision purposes to conclude the effectiveness of the markings opposed to non-markings.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Fisher moved to approve staff's recommendation to deny the installation of "Keep Clear" pavement marking on Goldenwest at Humboldt; seconded by Commissioner Robbins.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Ms. Davis commented that people are also traveling 35 mph in a 25mph zone on Humboldt Street.

Ms. De Anda's concern was the safety of children at play because the high speed of vehicles traveling on Tahoe Street.

Sergeant Nye explained that his officers will monitor the speed on Humboldt Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the City had received \$500k from the State to improve uncontrolled school crossings. Staff will design and implement a flashing beacon system that could be activated by children, school crossing guards, and residents. The combination would include a school zone sign north on Edwards, and a radar sign closer to Humboldt that displays the speed vehicles are travelling and would flash "Slow Down" if a vehicle is exceeding five miles over the speed limit. When the crosswalk is in use, the flashing beacon would be lit and display an arrow.

Mr. Davis added that he rides his bike early in the mornings and vehicles run the red light at Trask when he utilizes the crosswalk.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION
AND REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS
COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

Commissioner Robbins received a request from members of the Historical Society and the Church to rescind parking restrictions east of Newland Street. The members would like to park their bus at this location when they are transporting large groups of people to and from events. He asked the members to provide a written request and for staff to disclose the reasoning for the markings.

Staff will place the item on next month's agenda.

Commissioner Cruz was concerned with people parking less than eight feet from the fire hydrant at Newland Street and Jenrich Avenue.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that police enforcement monitors the location.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff had received a request for parking restrictions on Melanie Lane and had denied the request as the City is opposed to reducing existing parking. The requestor was informed via letter.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that Clark Hampton, with the School Board, received a resident's request to signalize the intersection of McFadden Street and Sugar Avenue; however, vehicles travelling over the overcrossing would not have enough sight visibility in a timely manner. A more effective solution would be striping modifications so vehicles coming out of Sugar Avenue can refuge into a 2-way left turn lane and merge onto McFadden to alleviate the back-up of traffic on Sugar Avenue. Mr. Hampton and the resident have been notified of the suggestion.

Mr. Ozaeta invited the Commissioners to the Traffic Management Center (TMC) at City Hall after concluding next month's Traffic Commission meeting to demonstrate the new amenities.

The Traffic Signal priority list and Speed Surveys will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer



By: Dora Salud
Special Services Clerk